

Application No.: 10/822,200

Amendment and Response filed on October 25, 2006

Reply to Advisory Action of August 17, 2006, and to Office Action of May 25, 2006

Docket No.: 760-129 DIV/CIP/CON II/RCE

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Current Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application. Please amend claims 32, 35, and 36 as follows.

Claims 1-28 (previously cancelled).

Claims 29-31 (cancelled).

32. (currently amended) A multi-layered ePTFE graft ~~according to claim 29~~ comprising:

a first ePTFE tubular structure having a first internodal distance;

a second ePTFE tubular structure having a second internodal distance different than said first internodal distance, said second ePTFE tubular structure being disposed about said first ePTFE tubular structure; and

a self-sealing gel interposed between said first and second ePTFE tubular structures, wherein said gel is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, collagen, albumin, casein, algin, carboxymethyl cellulose, carageenan, furcellan, agarose, guar, locus bean gum, gum arabic, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxyalkylmethyl cellulose, pectin, partially deacetylated chitosan, starch and starch derivatives, including amylase and amylopectin, xanthan, polylysine, hyaluronic acid, and its derivatives, heparin, their salts, and mixtures thereof,

wherein said self-sealing gel interposed between said first and second ePTFE tubular structures further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic elastomers, silicones, silicone rubbers, synthetic rubbers, polyurethanes, polyethers, polyesters, polyamides, fluoropolymers and combinations thereof.

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Claim 33 (cancelled).

34. (currently amended) A multi-layered graft according to claim 32 wherein said self-sealing ~~material~~ gel comprises an elastomeric polymer layer.
35. (previously presented) A multi-layered graft according to claim 34 wherein said self-sealing elastomeric polymer layer adheres to said first and second ePTFE tubular structures.
36. (previously presented) A multi-layered graft according to claim 35, wherein said adherence is by chemical means, mechanical means or a combination thereof.
37. (previously presented) A multi-layered graft according to claim 34 wherein said elastomeric polymer layer is impregnated with said gel to enhance sealing properties thereof.
38. (previously presented) A multi-layered graft according to claim 34 wherein said elastomeric polymer layer comprises an internodal distance sufficient to promote cell endothelization and/or tissue ingrowth.
39. (previously presented) A multi-layered graft according to claim 34 wherein said elastomeric polymer layer comprises an internodal distance sufficient to promote enhanced strength and handling characteristics of the graft.

Claims 40-49 (cancelled).

50. (new) A multi-layered ePTFE graft comprising:
a first ePTFE tubular structure having a first internodal distance;
a second ePTFE tubular structure having a second internodal distance different than said

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first internodal distance, said second ePTFE tubular structure being disposed about said first ePTFE tubular structure; and

a self-sealing gel interposed between said first and second ePTFE tubular structures, wherein said gel is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, collagen, albumin, casein, algin, carboxymethyl cellulose, carageenan, furcellan, agarose, guar, locus bean gum, gum arabic, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxyalkylmethyl cellulose, pectin, partially deacetylated chitosan, starch and starch derivatives, including amylase and amylopectin, xanthan, polylysine, hyaluronic acid, and its derivatives, heparin, their salts, and mixtures thereof;

wherein said self-sealing gel further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic elastomers, silicones, silicone rubbers, synthetic rubbers, polyurethanes, polyethers, polyesters, polyamides, fluoropolymers and combinations thereof;

wherein said self-sealing gel comprises an elastomeric polymer layer; and

wherein said self-sealing elastomeric polymer layer adheres to said first and second ePTFE tubular structures.

51. (new) A multi-layered graft according to claim 50, wherein said adherence is by chemical means, mechanical means or a combination thereof.